



Harris County
Public Health
Building a Healthy Community

Community Health and Violence Prevention Services Division Update



HCPHTX.ORG

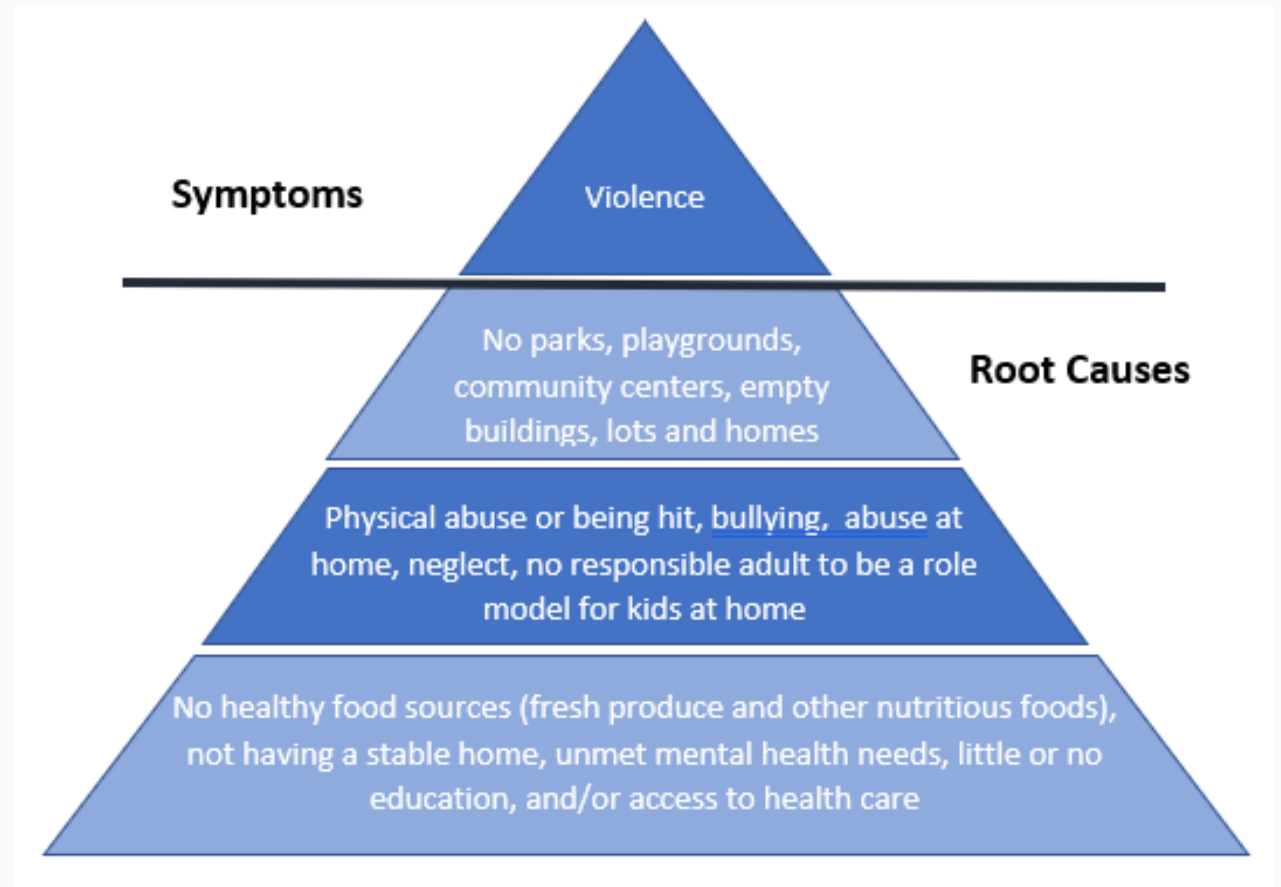


Division Programs

- Holistic Assistance Response Team (HART)
- Community Based Violence Interruption
- Hospital Based Violence Interruption
- Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)
- Pilot Diversion Program with District Attorney's Office

A Public Health Approach to Violence Prevention

A public health approach helps prevent or interrupt violent situations before law enforcement is required. It focuses on addressing root causes to support social and emotional well-being, economic opportunity, and self-sufficiency.



HART-Alternative 911 Response Initiative



All services are funded and managed by Harris County Public Health

- HART – Holistic Assistance Response Team (District 1 (northern county, 148 miles))
 - HART provides trained medical and behavioral health responders for ***non-violent*** incidents in **Cypress Station**, such as homelessness or substance abuse
 - Helps free up law enforcement to focus on violent crime
 - Through the end of May 2022, HART has responded to 219 calls.



How it Works

- Law enforcement frequently responds to *non-violent* calls that could be effectively handled by teams of trained medical and behavioral health responders.
- When the Harris County Sheriff's Department receives 911 calls for Cypress Station, dispatchers will have the option to send a HART unit to *non-violent* incidents.
- These trained responders assist individuals and connect them to the appropriate resources, which may prevent repeat episodes.
- HART responders are clearly identifiable uniforms and marked vehicles to distinguish them from law enforcement.

Table 1. HART Call Volume

	May 2022	Cumulative*
Calls handled by HART (overall)	82	219
911 calls handled by HART only	55	138
911 calls with LE co-response	9	22
911 calls with EMS co-response	2	7
911 calls with LE and EMS co-response	2	6

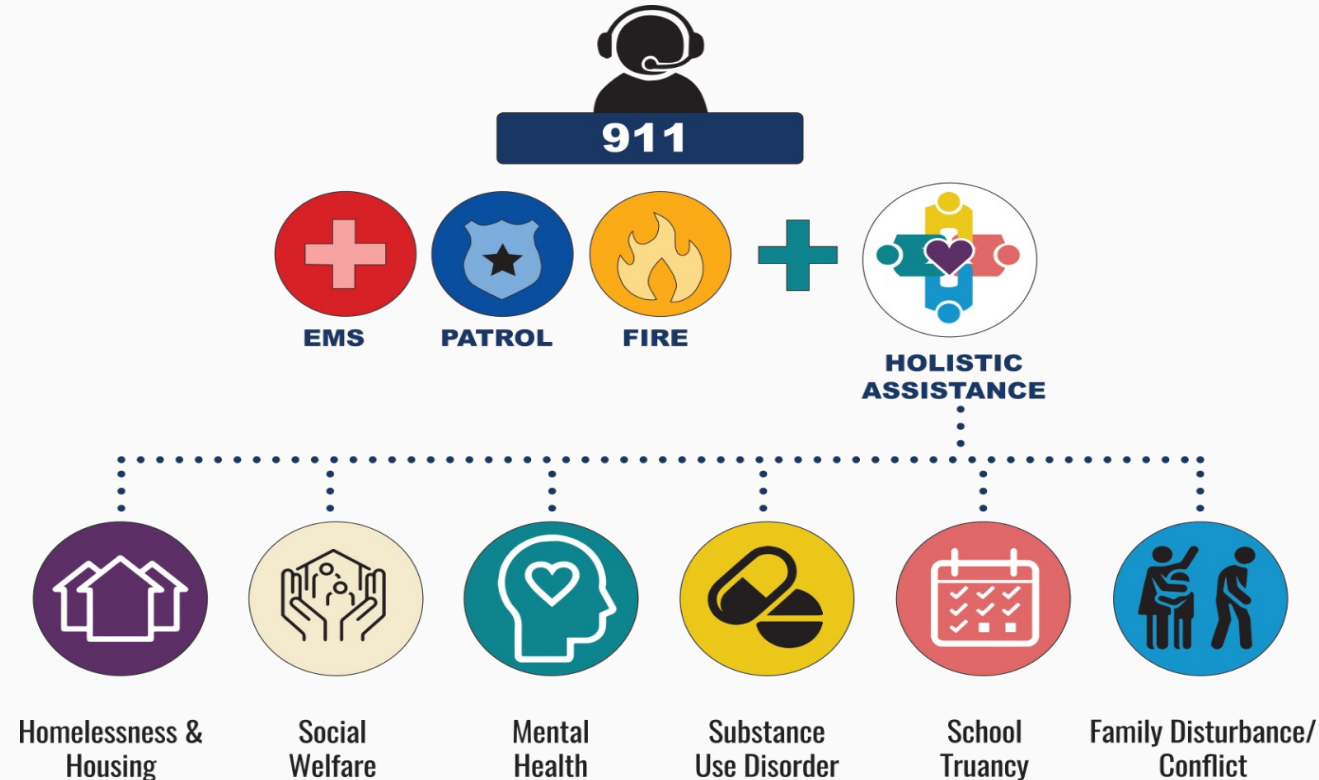
Table 2. 911 Calls by Call Types

HART Response Only	
Call type	Number of Calls
Mental Health	41
Suspicious Persons	29
Welfare Check	78
Other	41

HART Co-Response	
Call type	Number of Calls
Unknown Medical	16
Family Disturbance	14



Hart - A Fourth Option for Assistance in Cypress Station



Harris County
Public Health
Building a Healthy Community



HCPHTX.ORG

Community Violence Interruption Program

Working with Community Members

- Outreach Specialists/Credible Messengers are from the community and have had similar life experiences to the youth and young adults they are working with
- Outreach Specialists/Credible Messengers intervene to prevent violence, interrupt existing conflicts, and prevent retaliation
- They identify residents who may be involved in violence to bring them into the program
- Outreach Specialists connect at-risk individuals with resources and social services to help them heal and change their lives

Violence Interruption Initiatives

CVIP – Community Violence Interruption Program (77021, 77051, 77033, and 77090)

- CVIP focuses on youth and young adults since they are most often the perpetrators *and* victims of violence
- Outreach specialists work in Sunnyside, South Park, Greater OST/South Union, and Cypress Station to prevent violence and retaliation

All services are funded and managed by Harris County Public Health

Outreach Specialist Qualifications

- HS Diploma / GED not required to apply but must obtain within 12 months of hire date.
- Can be justice impacted (Criminal history not an automatic disqualifier)
- ***Note: Those with offenses against children, the elderly, sex offenders or offenses against the mentally and physically impaired are ineligible***
- One Outreach Specialist position remaining for South Park, Sunnyside, Greater OST/South Union area. Hiring 4 more for Cypress Station area.

Update on Program

One Outreach Specialist began working in the Sunnyside, South Park, and Greater OST/South Union (77021, 77051, 77033) area in late March

- 23 High Risk Residents have been engaged in conversations
- 6 Residents agreed to participate in program
- 2 Residents have obtained employment
- 4 Residents have been enrolled in Medicaid or other health insurance program

Update Continued

- 4 Violence Interruption staff (3 outreach specialists and 1 Supervisor) and 2 ACCESS Staff are being trained this week (June 6th through June 10th) by Dr. Tillmon
- 1 Additional Outreach Specialist will start on June 21st
- Outreach Specialists will be out in the community next week

Hospital Based Violence Interruption Program

Working with Survivors in the Hospital

- Outreach specialists work with hospitalized survivors of violence in the immediate aftermath to provide intensive compassionate support and resources
- The goal is to assist with recovery and help survivors avoid future violent incidents and injuries
- Outreach Specialists will work with patients at Ben Taub Hospital, a Harris County Level 1 Trauma Center
- Support and assistance continued after survivors leave the hospital
- Weekly meetings with the Health Alliance for Violence Intervention and Ben Taub Hospital staff
- *We have been approached by HCA-Houston Healthcare Northwest (Cypress Station area) with interest in partnering in a similar program-no funding would be needed.*

Expected Program Benefits

- Fewer number of violent incidents in the community
- Fewer people hospitalized and re-hospitalized with violent injuries
- Community members feel safer in their neighborhood
- *More people connected to and actively participating in physical and mental health treatment plans and other social service resources*
- *Full Program Evaluation Plans have been drafted and in the process of being finalized.*

CPTED

- Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) – improved lighting, sidewalks, parks, etc.
 - 5 areas in the county have been identified (Cypress Station, East Aldine near Keith-Wiess Park, Cloverleaf, OST/South Union/Sunnyside, Alief)
 - Neighborhood Prioritization Index used: Incorporates level of violent crime, neighborhood vulnerability, and infrastructure: Aggravated Assaults, Homicide Deaths, CDC Social Vulnerability Index (SVI), Streetlight rate, Sidewalk rate
- Meetings to get project approved by the Steering Committee continue
- CHVPS willing to use existing resources to begin community engagement to help get projects started

Pilot Diversion Program with DA's Office

- Divert 100 low level offenders
- Connect them with Resources
- In the Planning Stages

Ongoing Projects

- Public Health Mobile Units and Outreach Teams in Cypress Station on Tuesdays and Thursdays- at apartment properties with highest level of crime
- June is Gun Violence Awareness Month
- Planning Large Health Fair in Cypress Station with tentative date of 6/30/22
- County Wide Violence Prevention Campaign (Pending Commissioners Court Approval)
- Violence Prevention Conference August 30th and 31st (Pending Commissioners Court Approval)

CONTACT US:

ViolencePrevention@phs.hctx.net

713-274-4877 (713-274-4VPP)



Harris County
Public Health
Building a Healthy Community



HCPHTX.ORG

Thank
You



Harris County
Public Health
Building a Healthy Community



HCPHTX.ORG